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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/797,025	03/11/2004	Akito Takegawa	01203.081	4631
7590	03/17/2006		EXAMINER	
Liniak, Berenato & White Ste. 240 6550 Rock Spring Drive Bethesda, MD 20817				LOCKETT, KIMBERLY R
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2837	

DATE MAILED: 03/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/797,025	TAKEGAWA, AKITO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Kim R. Lockett	2837	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,5-7,11-14,16 and 21-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 2-4,8-10 and 17-20 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/11/04.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: ____.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim s 16 and 17 recite the limitation "said curved inner edge". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 5, 6, 12-14, 21, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okumura in view of Ludwig.

Okumura discloses the use of a snare assembly for use with a snare drum (26) said snare assembly comprising a pair of spaced end members (62,63); a metal snare strand having continuously graduated effective lengths for providing continuously graduated tension of said snare strands in a transverse direction of said assembly when said strands are elongated in an axial direction thereof (see figure 5b).

Okumura does not disclose the use of a plurality of generally parallel snare stands extending and each attached at opposite ends thereof to respective ones of said end members.

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Ludwig discloses the use of a snare assembly with a plurality of generally parallel snare stands extending and each permanently attached at opposite ends thereof to respective inner curved end members that are convex (see figure 1). Ludwig also discloses the use pf strands that are arranged in side-by-side relationship.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the snare assembly as disclosed by Okumura to include the strands as disclosed by Ludwig in order to provide a long attenuation time of the vibration of acoustic wires.

3. Claims 7, 11, 22, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okumura in view of Ludwig and Kasha.

Okumura and Ludwig do not disclose the use of soldering or clamps.

Kasha discloses that the use of a drum snare assembly comprising multiple snare strands. Kasha discloses that the use of drum snares attached by soldering is well known in the art (column 2, lines 20-25) and that the use of snare clamps is also conventional in the art (column 2, lines 30-35).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the snare assembly as disclosed by Okumura to include the strands as disclosed by Ludwig and the attachment characteristics as disclosed by Kasha in order to provide a durable means of attaching drum snares.

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4. Claims 2-4, 15, 18-20 and 8-10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

5. Claims 16, 17, would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

6. Papers related to this application may be submitted to Group 2800 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Group 2800 via the PTO 2800 Fax Center at 703-872-9306.

For assistance in **Patent procedure, fees or general Patent questions** calls should be directed to the **Patents Assistance Center (PAC) whose telephone number is 800-786-9199**. Assistance is also available on the Internet at www.uspto.gov.

Any inquiry concerning **this communication or earlier communications from the examiner** should be directed to **Kim Lockett whose telephone number is (703) 308-7615, after 2/3/04 my new number will be (571) 272-2067**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30 am to 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula Bradley can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext. 33.



KIMBERLY LOCKETT
PRIMARY EXAMINER